



May Edition, Issue 9

Celebrating Asian Pacific heritage month from Kuwait

Story by: Maj. Pam Ellison, 29th IBCT PAO



Soldiers of 1-299th Cavalry proudly display their Hawaiian flag at "Da SandJam" concert on Camp Buehring, Kuwait, May 19. Entertainers traveled from Hawaii to perform at five different bases in Kuwait and celebrate Asia Pacific Heritage Month by sharing their Aloha with Soldiers of Hawaii and the Pacific Islands. Photo by: Staff Sgt. Crystal Carpenito, 29th IBCT PA.

No truer words could describe the feeling that radiated throughout Kuwait this past week as entertainers from Hawaii traveled over 8,500 miles across 13 time zones to conduct five different camp performances in four days to celebrate Asia Pacific Heritage Month by sharing their Aloha for the Soldiers of Hawaii and the Pacific Islands.

B.E.T., Vaihi, Kaleo and four Tahitian hula dancers led by Tony Silva started the per-

formances out on Monday at LSA with a small sampling of the entertainers then moving on to Camp Buehring on Tuesday with all performing to include a pre-recorded audio and video accompaniment by Sam Langi of B.E.T. who couldn't make the flight due to health issues. On Wednesday, the entertainers provided both a small and large performance at both Camp Patriot and Arifjan respectively, culminating with the largest

performance of them all at Camp Virginia on Thursday.

A Hawaiian style luau sampling of food along with Miss Hawaii 2009, Nicole Fox, may have been the additions that pushed the Camp Virginia performance off the Richter scale, with an audience of around 1,400. Miss Hawaii, having arrived early Thursday morning, spent just a bit more than 36 hours on the ground in Kuwait, but was a big hit with the Virginia audience.

"There are no words to adequately describe my experience here in Kuwait," said Miss Hawaii during a Friday afternoon filled with many events to include familiarization with the mine-resistant ambush protected (MRAP) vehicles, wearing the typical personal protective equipment of Soldiers traveling into Iraq as well as experiencing a camel ride, all before boarding a flight back to Hawaii on Friday evening.

The show "Hanohano Kupuali Koa '09", "Da Sand Jam" for short, became the first of its kind, through sponsorship by Area Support Group – Kuwait as an MWR event with an added emphasis to highlight the culture of the Asia Pacific Islanders. By allowing the Soldiers in Kuwait to bring the entertainment that they wanted to them instead of getting the performers who were sent to tour Kuwait, Da Sand Jam was certain to be a big hit. As an idea started by the wife of a 100-442nd Infantry Battalion Soldier, further supported by the Camp Virginia Command Cell and ultimately funded by ASG-KU MWR.

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29TH LAVA BRIGADE COMMANDER



Colonel Bruce Oliveira

and Pacific Islanders continues to strengthen the fabric of the American society. From the arrival of the first Asian American and Pacific Islander immigrants 150 years ago, to those who arrive today, as well as those native to the Hawaiian Islands and to our Pacific Island territories, all possess the common purpose of fulfill-

ing the American dream and

draws strength from its diversity. In this era of persistent conflict, we continue to develop culturally astute, agile and adaptive leaders and Soldiers who are able to meet the challenges of the 21st Century.

In recognizing 2009 as the year of the Non-Commissioned Officer, we also pay a particular tribute to the Asian and Pacific Islander NCO leading from the front.

The Soldiers of the Lava Brigade Combat Team continue to perform superbly, facing the challenges and dangers of their mission with courage and determination. I could not be more proud of our men and women who I have watched grow to become our nation's heroes.

Now that we have been here for nearly eight

would create a safer and smarter way to conduct operations in this environment. I need all Lava Soldiers to dig deep and not take short cuts. Units over time have the tendency to get into routines. Let's make sure we are not setting ourselves up for failure by establishing routines that are not the best way of doing business. Complacency kills, do the right thing even if it is harder and when no one is looking. Finding ways to improve will lessen the risk that may save you or your buddy's life.

Finally, we could not do this without our Families' courage, determination and unwavering resolve from the home front. Our Families continue to provide the same steadfast and loyal support that gives strength to their Soldiers at the front line in this war on terrorism. Thank you for all you are doing.

Talofa, Mabuhay, Kon-nichi wa, Nihau ma, Ahn nyeong ha se yo, Hafa Adai, la orana, Bula Vinaka, Aloha.

This past month we celebrated Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month by remembering the challenges and celebrating the achievements which define our history.

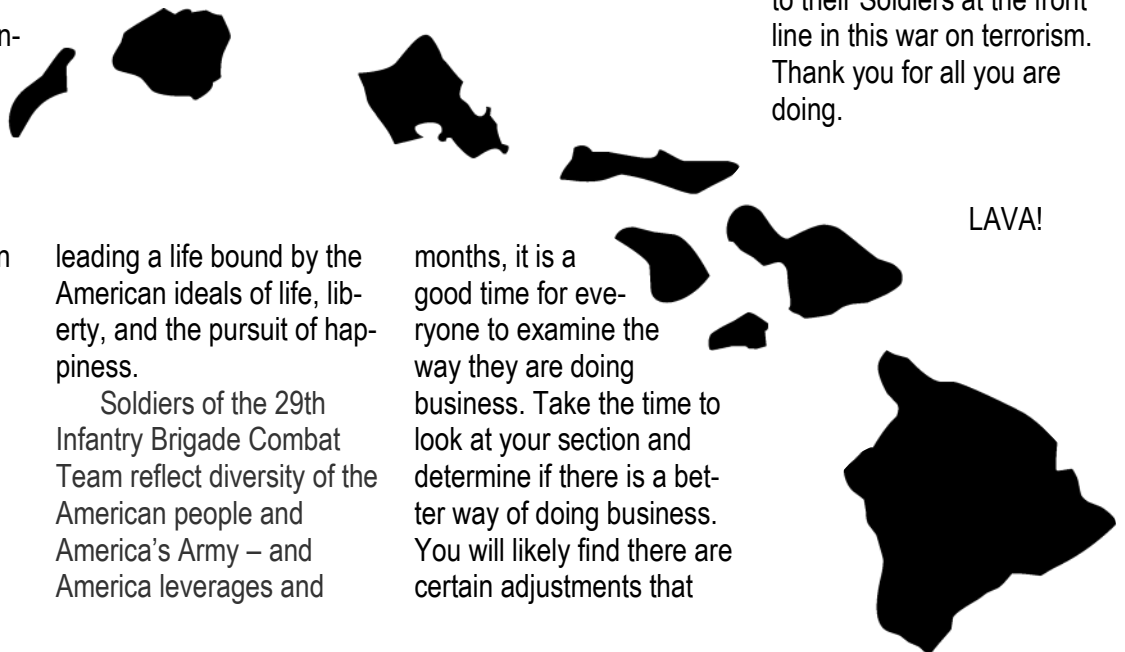
The diversity of languages and cultural traditions of Asian Americans

leading a life bound by the American ideals of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Soldiers of the 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team reflect diversity of the American people and America's Army – and America leverages and

months, it is a good time for everyone to examine the way they are doing business. Take the time to look at your section and determine if there is a better way of doing business. You will likely find there are certain adjustments that

LAVA!



As Command Sgt. Maj. Coronado is currently on R & R, we thought it appropriate to use his area as a location for a reminder of the importance of the Soldier's Creed and the Army values that each of us should keep in mind as we remain diligent in the successful completion of our mission.

tary" (Future of the Army Profession, Snider and Watkins, 2002). In turn, our Army Ethic rests on a bedrock of our seven Army Values; Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage. It is a unique collection, unlike any other organizations in the

The Army is undergoing a major transformation in the way it does business. Just as Army Values guide the thinking, behavior, and professional ethos of every warrior, those same values will guide the actions of those who support and sustain them. The American people hold the entire Army to a higher standard, not just the front-line Warriors. The priorities we set, the efficiencies we gain, the continuous improvements we achieve, will be attained in keeping with our Army Values. This transformation brings with it many challenges to overcome. Still, we will continually measure ourselves and our success by our adherence to those values.

29TH LAVA BRIGADE SERGEANT MAJOR



CSM Edgardo Coronado
BDE CSM

The Soldier's Creed

I am an American Soldier.
I am a Warrior and a member of a team. I serve the people of the United States and live the Army Values.

I will always place the mission first.
I will never accept defeat.
I will never quit.
I will never leave a fallen comrade.

I am disciplined, physically and mentally tough, trained and proficient in my warrior tasks and drills. I always maintain my arms, my equipment and myself.

I am an expert and I am a professional.

I stand ready to deploy, engage, and destroy the enemies of the United States of America in close combat.

I am a guardian of freedom and the American way of life.

I am an American Soldier.

"Our profession's ethic remains the foundation of trust which the American people place in their mili-

world, and reflects the high standards to which the entire Army adheres, regardless of its mission area.

LOYALTY
DUTY
RESPECT
SELFLESS SERVICE
HONOR
INTEGRITY
PERSONAL COURAGE

Why Rest and Recuperation (R & R) pass?

Story and Photo by:
1st Lt. Eric Miyasato

Seeing the same scenery, eating the same meal at the DFAC, for some Soldiers it's almost like the movie Ground Hog Day, where the main character finds himself repeating the same day over and over again. The Rest and Recuperation (R&R) Leave Program is a privilege many look forward to, to get away from daily grind, and to decompress back home or elsewhere. For some Soldiers, due to mission constraints or date they arrived in theater, they don't get R&R leave, but they do get R&R pass.

The R&R Pass is a program that allows for service members to take a 4-day pass to the country of Qatar to decompress and relax from the stress of deployment. At Qatar, there are U.S. service men and women, United Services Organization representatives, and civilian contractors, whose sole jobs are to ensure the morale, welfare, and recreation for Soldiers on pass.

Many tours and activities are offered to Servicemembers. For example, tours to the city, market places, and sea activities. For Soldiers who just want to lounge, there is an extraordinary USO, with movies playing daily, restaurants, computers, games, etc. The whole R&R pass experience is short compared to the 14 day R&R leave, but overall, it is a great program for Soldiers to visit a different country, take a break, and of course to rest.



Sgt. Gloria Lelu, Staff Sgt. Yuan-Yin Yang, and Sgt. Lacey Golonka, HHC, 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, show off their henna tattoos on a four day pass to Qatar.

My first boat ride — pass in Qatar

By: Staff Sgt. Norman Bartley
HHC, 29th IBCT, S3

Recently I went on a four day pass to Qatar with some of my friends who are also deployed in Kuwait right now. The trip was full of exciting activities, but I mostly enjoyed the boat cruise where we went out into the ocean, swam, ate barbeque, and watched the sunset and city lights.

The boat was one of those older models that looked like a Japanese fishing boat. It could hold about 25 people and had two decks with enough room to relax and even sunbathe. We left port around 4 p.m. and returned around 8 p.m.

My friends, Master Sgt. Mole, Sgts. Andy Tafunai and Mary Jose, Spc. Britney Wolf and I, Staff Sgt. Norman Bartley, all had so much fun. The boat went out about five miles from shore and traveled slow enough for us to take pictures. I don't have a camera so my friends took lots of pictures for me.

Then the boat stopped so we could dive into the water and swim around. The water was so

beautiful and clear. Before we got off the boat we saw three or four jellyfish, but they didn't stop me and I jumped in anyway. I swam around for awhile than would go back on deck to relax and then jump off into the water again. Around the fifth time I jumped into the water I got stung by one of the jellyfish on my stomach, arm and knee. It was okay though because I still had fun.

Around 6 p.m. dinner was ready for us to eat. We had barbeque chicken, sausage, steak and more. As we ate the sun began to set and the sky came dark. We took pictures of the city lights that were so beautiful and reminded me of

the Waikiki city lights back home in Honolulu, Hawaii. The tour guide told us the lights we were

looking at sat on a man-made island that cost \$52 billion to make.



Off the shores of Qatar, Soldiers relax and unwind from the stresses of deployment while on their four day pass. Back row, Sgt. Andy Tafunai, middle row, left to right, Master Sgt. Mole, Spc. Britney Wolf, Sgt. Mary Jose, front row, Staff Sgt. Norman Bartley.

Capt. Ammerman accepts command of Troop Bravo, 1-299th Cavalry

**Story by: Capt. Peter Ammerman
B/1-299th CAV Commander**

There was recently a change in the 1-299th Cavalry structure – Capt. Jon Ishikawa moved to the Operations Officer position, therefore handing over command of Bravo Troop to Capt. Peter Ammerman. It happened suddenly but everyone was excited for the move and especially the BBQ which was held afterward.

The ceremony took place at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, on May 1 and was attended by the 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Commander, Col. Bruce Oliveira, Brigade Deputy Commander, Col. Kenneth Hara, Brigade Command Sgt. Maj., Edgardo Coronado, 1-299th Command Sgt. Maj. Craig Ynigues and Soldiers of B-Troop.

The Change of Command ceremony is a time-honored tradition to pass the

company guide-on from the outgoing commander to the incoming commander. B-Troop conducted a few practices prior to the actual ceremony which led to a Kodak moment.

Ishikawa was happy to be moving to a new position which will test his army skills and knowledge but also sad to leave such a fine unit.

Ammerman is extremely excited to be back with his fellow Soldiers in B-Troop, where he was a platoon leader for 18 months prior to deployment. After two months in Kuwait he was transferred to the Squadron Staff and worked as a battle captain.

Once home, the transition for B-Troop should be easier having already completed the transfer of author-

ity and so all Families will meet the new commander upon arrival to Oahu in August.

Other than the change in command, the month of May brought with it another change – Soldiers had to move from their living areas

to a new area on base to make room for Soldier of other units arriving. They weren't excited about moving again, especially prior to the final demobilization back to the states but understood to say the least.



Capt. Peter Ammerman, left, receives the guide-on and command of Bravo Troop, 1-299th Cavalry, during a change of command ceremony held at Camp Beuhring, Kuwait, May 1.



Capt. Jon Ishikawa stands in front of Troop Bravo, 1-299th Cavalry as commander for the final time. He will now take over as the Operations Officer. Photos by: Staff Sgt. Crystal Carpenito, 29th IBCT PA

100-442nd Infantry Soldier receives 2009 MacArthur Award



Capt. Andre Bennet, right, 100-442nd Infantry Battalion, stands beside Congresswoman Madeleine Bordallo after receiving the 2009 Douglas MacArthur award for superior leadership, May 8.

**Story by: Capt. Timothy Zeisset
100-442nd IN Public Affairs**

Each year the Army recognizes 25 officers and three warrant officers who have distinguished themselves above their peers, by awarding them with the Douglas MacArthur award for leadership.

The MacArthur award recognizes company grade officers for demonstrating the ideals that Gen. MacArthur stood for: Duty, Honor, and Country.

This year, on May 8, Capt. Andre Bennett was the recipient of the MacArthur award, representing

the CENTCOM Theater, the Army Reserve, and the 100-442nd Infantry Battalion for his outstanding leadership during training and while deployed as commander of Company Echo, 100-442nd IN BN.

Among those in attendance at the ceremony were the Army Chief of Staff, Congresswoman Madeleine Bordallo of Guam, and Bennett's family.

Gifts of "Aloha" aid U.S.-Iraqi Partnership

**By: Capt. Timothy Zeisset
100-442nd IN Public Affairs**

A couple of months ago, a Convoy Escort Team from Company Delta, 100-442nd Infantry Battalion, supported the Rifle Tactical Attack Center initiative of partnership with local Iraqi Highway Patrol (IHP). CET 3 escorted Cpt. Jeffery Wyatt, Officer in Charge of Rifle, to the IHP Station for a meeting with the local commander.

Battalion Soldiers, including those of Delta Company, chatted and conversed with our Iraqi allies on many different topics; including local road conditions and local children safety. At this meeting with the IHP com-

mander Wyatt expressed the Battalion's intent for a safe Iraqi region through cooperation with Iraqi Security Forces.

Wyatt also used this meeting as an opportunity to hand out toys to the local children. The toys and games are alternate avenues to help U.S. and Iraqi Forces control the movement of Iraqi children. The toys and games came with a message from Soldiers who the gifts were from, "Please stay off the road, for your safety and for ours."

Sgt. Celon Mcloskey hands out toys to Iraqi children while improving relations with the local population. Courtesy photo



Brigade Special Troops Battalion finishing strong

**Story by: 1st Lt. Ronaldo Pascua
29th BSTB Chaplain**

We are almost there. At the time of this writing, we have about three months more to go. Our replacement unit from Wyoming will be arriving here in about a month and a half. Then we will transition with them for a couple of weeks. Once they are settled in, we will spend the rest of the time packing and preparing for our movement back home.

We've made it this far, and we'll make it the rest of the way. It's been a long journey, and we have not only survived, we have thrived. The long hours of service to Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines, the never-ending work orders, the continuous requests for supplies, vehicles, tents and billets, the preparation of food, the controlling



of pests, the cleanliness and security of the camp, and lastly providing for fun activities, have all helped to make Camp Virginia one of the best camps in Kuwait.

But it is not *that* we provided, but *how* we provided that made the difference. Commanders and leaders from other units and services have gone out of their way to com-

pliment us and say how much they appreciated our service. They compare us to other units who have led this camp and other camps, and notice a distinct difference in our service to them. They may not be able to identify it, but we know what it is. It is the "Aloha spirit." It is this spirit of Aloha or love that is seen when we assist

and provide for their needs. Let's not forget that.

It's been a rewarding journey, but the race is not over. We are almost to the finish line. Scripture says, "Let us not grow weary in doing good." Keep up the good work, and let's finish strong!

The honorable call of Citizen Soldiers

**Story by: Maj. Shawn Tsuha
29th BSTB, S3 Contributor**

Throughout my career I have been blessed to work with the best citizens of this great country. Citizen Soldiers both young and old have left their nine-to-five jobs, their Families, and their ordinary lives to assist fellow citizens during natural, or man-made disasters, and to serve in every conflict since the founding of this great country.

Ralph Waldo Emerson defined the citizen Soldier in his Concord Hymn while describing the Revolutionary War battle at Concord Massachusetts, April 19, 1775, "By the rude bridge that arched the flood, their flag to April's breeze unfurled; here once the embattled farmers stood and fired the shot heard 'round the world'."

Whenever I see the painted barrier located just outside the Camp Virginia Command Cell, I am reminded again of great Soldiers, one young and one older, one from Ha-

waii, and the other from Oklahoma.

Specialist Lillian Park is a 19-year-old graduate of Roosevelt High School in Honolulu, Hawaii, who created this work of art. I wanted to know what motivated her. She started describing the 29th Brigade Special Troops Battalion Unit Crest, but, I didn't want a textbook answer, I wanted to know where her inspiration came from.

Inspiration she said is, "The joy of creation, I love the thought that what I create will have a positive impact on people. When people see this barrier I want them to think that the 29th BSTB is a great unit. Most especially I want everyone to know that Spc. Cwisyn Walter [a fellow Soldier who died in a car accident in Kuwait on Feb. 19, 2009], will forever be in our hearts and to inspire us to remember the good times and that we are more than a battalion, we are Family," said Park, an Information Systems Operator-Analyst, who joined the National Guard for the challenge, discipline, and camaraderie.

Sgt. 1st Class Daryl Easley is a 30 year veteran of the Active Army, Navy and Oklahoma National Guard, born and raised in Iowa, but moved to Oklahoma. He grew up in the city and worked at his uncle's farms every summer, but wanted to do something with his life. He has Military Occupational Skills as 11B, Infantryman, and 13B, Cannon Crewmember, and is also a qualified Aviation Mechanic, but works full-time building full-motion based Aviation Flight Simulators. He has served during numerous call-outs like the Oklahoma City bombing, the hurricanes in Louisiana, winter blizzards, and the 2003 Invasion of Iraq. He has missed civilian promotional opportunities because of his military service, yet he remained in the National Guard to balance his love for his country with the needs of his employer, and most importantly, the needs of his Family. Easley is now serving as the Platoon Sergeant for Company Alpha, 271st Brigade Support Battalion, 45th Fires Brigade, as part of Camp Virginia's Quick Reaction Force team.

As I think about the abilities, and

talents that National Guard Soldiers like Park and Easley bring to this battalion, I can't help but think about all the sacrifices service members make for our country. The motivation for every mile marched, every promotion earned, every mission accomplished, was done for love of country and community, and because we don't want to let our battle buddies down.

Soon we will redeploy back home to our loved ones and to our regular lives once more. This battalion barrier will remain at Camp Virginia, but our accomplishments, and Walter, will remain in our hearts forever.

When President Woodrow Wilson made the following statement he was talking about artists in general, but what he said applies to all service members of our great country. He said, "You are not here merely to make a living. You are here in order to enable the world to live more amply, with greater vision, with a finer spirit of hope and achievement. You are here to enrich the world, and you impoverish yourself if you forget that errand."

Soldiers help Soldiers pass APFT

**Story by: Staff. Sgt. Lorajan Kaonohi
1-487th FA PA**

On Jan. 27-29, 2nd Platoon, Bravo Battery, 1-487th Field Artillery conducted their Army Physical Fitness Test for those who previously failed in November 2008.

Spcs. Matthew Migita, Ed Fernandez and Belinda Butac, who all passed their APFT in November, dedicated personal time to help fellow Soldiers pass their APFT.

With their help and dedication, ten out of eleven Soldiers passed their APFT.

Migita supported his good friend and fellow Soldier, Spc. Bontog, who came in first on the two mile run.

Fernandez supported his younger brother Spc. Martee Fernandez. SPC Butac, one of the only two females in 2nd Platoon supported her only other female battle buddy SPC Christina Choy who not only passed, but made a huge improvement on her 2 mile run. These 3 Soldier's significant acts had a great impact on the platoon's morale and APFT passing percentage.

Offering motivational support during an Army Physical Fitness Test at Camp Patriot, Spc. Belinda Butac, left, runs beside Spc. Christina Choy who completed the 2 miles in passing time.



Hawaii Soldiers represent at Wrangler Rumble Tournament

**By: Staff. Sgt. Lorajan Kaonohi
1-487th FA PA**

April 24, 2009 marked the first of the three day Wrangler's Combative Tournament at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. Many of the Soldiers that participated were recent graduates of the Army Combative Course; others had prior experience either in mixed martial arts or wrestling. Either way, all participants did an outstanding job motivating themselves and their teammates.

The third day consisted of the finals from all weight categories. The event was created to simulate a realistic fight event; with music playing as each contender walked onto the mat and flags held to signify who they were representing. Of course, every contender from the Hawaii Army National Guard's 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team walked out as a Hawaiian flag was held high behind



29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Soldiers compete on day two to make it to the finals, Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, April 25. Photo by: Staff Sgt. Crystal Carpenito, 29th IBCT PA

their head.

Eight contenders were from Company Alpha, Brigade Support Battalion, including Staff Sgts. Grant Hamilton, Jeffrey Madriaga, Sgts. Howard Lopes, Brandon Maki, Spcs. Barry Asberry, Delilah Joung, Bernie Bumanglag, and Reid Moser,

who all made Hawaii proud in their bouts. Out of the eight contenders, Joung and Asberry walked away from the tournament with 2009 championship titles and a title belt.

Out of the 36 contenders from 1-299th Cavalry, Sgt. Captain Dekoning, Spcs. Kory Tucker and William Mi-

ura also received 2009 championship titles and belts.

Each of these contenders gave every ounce of energy and enthusiasm in their matches, whether they won or lost, they held their heads high on and off the mat.

See photo gallery on page 13

Soldiers run for Special Olympics “Torch run” in Kuwait



Servicemembers from different military branches come together as team “The 40Plus Mixed Plate” at the 8 mile Special Olympic Torch Run on Life Support Area Kuwait, May 9. Back row, left to right, Kelli Roesch, Christine Reed, front row, left to right, Vernita Stevens, Gloria Josey, Tonla Littlejohn, Eugenia Gansit, Laura Morrow, and Claudia Walker.

Story by: Sgt. 1st Class Eugenia Gansit, 29th BSB Contributor

The Law Enforcement Torch Run Campaign was established in 1981 and is the largest grass-root fundraiser for Special Olympics world-wide.

Thousands of participants get together each year in Washington, to share the responsibility of carrying the torch or “Flame of Hope” as they run to the opening of the Special Olympic Summer Games.

Even though I’m in Kuwait, I thought I’d run since both my mom and older sister live in Washington. Then as I thought it out more, rather than run the whole 8 miles myself, I decided why not get a team together and share the 8 miles.

As I formed a spreadsheet with names, I thought how it

would be nice to have all different branches of service join together to build upon cohesion, camaraderie and hopefully friendship.

Being that most females willing to participate were in their 40’s, we named our team “The 40Plus Mixed Plate.”

On the day of the run, May 9, each member had to run 1 mile and then pass the torch on to the next runner, until all 8 miles were completed.

Our first mile was ran by Sgt. 1st Class Gloria Josey, 82nd Brigade Support Battalion, who continued the last 7 miles and took first place in the female category.

After Josey’s contribution, the second mile was ran by Master Sgt. Laura Morrow, 44th Medical Command; the third, Master Sgt. Tonia Littlejohn, 1st Cavalry Division; fourth, Sgt. 1st Class Christine

Reed, 461st Human Resource Company; fifth, Petty Officer 1st Class Kelli Roesch, Mass Communication Team; sixth; Gunnery Sgt. Vernita Stevens, U.S. Marine Corps, who also continued the other 7 miles with her fellow Marines; seventh, Sgt. 1st Class Claudia Walker, 230th Finance Company; and the 8th and final mile was ran by myself, Sgt. 1st Class Eugenia Gansit, 29th Brigade Support Battalion, Kalealoe, Hawaii.

There were about 180 participants who ran either individually, part of a seven-man team or along with all members of their unit.

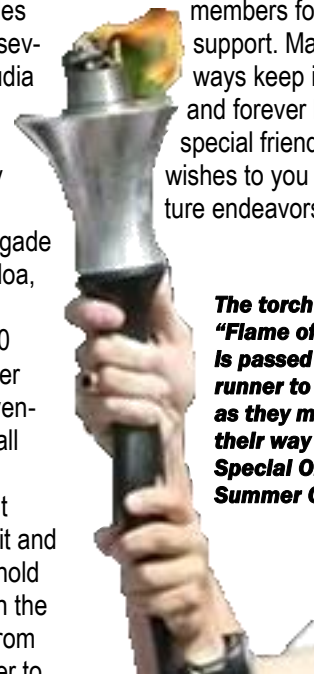
What made this event unique was that each unit and branch of service got to hold the torch at some point in the run; the torch was sent from Washington State in order to

inaugurate it here in Kuwait for the Special Olympics. It was passed from the 29th BSB, Life Support Area Command Cell, to Navy Customs, to Theater Gateway, to Camp Moreel Navy Seabees, who were the last to cross the finish line with torch in hand.

We all participated in the run to support the Special Olympics and represent the states in which we come from, as well as get in some physical fitness and enjoy the company of newly formed friendships.

“It’s great that women from different branches of the military got together to support the Special Olympics. We each took a portion of the fun run and we did really well, despite the fact that some of us are old enough to be the mothers of the younger troops,” Roesch told me.

I’d like to thank my team members for their support. May we always keep in touch and forever hold a special friendship. Best wishes to you all in future endeavors.



The torch or “Flame of Hope” is passed on from runner to runner as they make their way to the Special Olympic Summer Games.



Congratulations Soldiers

29TH IBCT Re-enlistments

KOA

1-299th Cavalry

Staff Sgt.	Douglas	Arakawa
Staff Sgt.	Nathan	Niitani
Spc.	Neil	Shiroma

IKAIKA MAO LOA

29th BSTB

Sgt.	Brent	Ortiz
Sgt.	Robin	Tuaniga
Spc.	Leonido	Taguiran

POHAU

HHC 29th IBCT

Staff Sgt.	Crystal	Carpenito
Sgt.	Daniel	Douglas

29TH IBCT Promotions

KOA

1-299th Cavalry

Capt.	Michael	Mathes
Spc.	Carveiro	Regal
Spc.	Chester	Geronimo
Spc.	Stanley	Kinimaka
Spc.	Michael	Ravida
Spc.	Gabriel	Sakai
Spc.	Jacob	Salik

SERVICE ALL WAYS

29th BSB

Staff Sgt.	Jonathan	Serrano
Staff Sgt.	Allen	Vergara
Sgt.	Brandon	Wisniewski

IKAIKA MAO LOA

29th BSTB

Staff Sgt.	Lacey	Golonka
Spc.	Rainier	Frost

Female Soldier convoys into Iraq for re-enlistment

Story by: **Sgt. Reed Kotake**
1-299th CAV Contributor



Spc. Cherry Roldan-Gador, left, 1-299th Cavalry, recites the re-enlistment oath, lead by Capt. Timothy Spencer, in front of a throne in Victory Palace after traveling by Convoy Escort Team from Kuwait. Gador is the first female from the 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team to drive into Iraq this deployment.

The decision to re-enlist in the military is a difficult one for many Soldiers. For others, the decision is easier and all that's left to be done is raise your right hand and take the oath, at what's called a reenlistment ceremony.

Now where to hold the ceremony? Why not re-enlist in front of the throne at Camp Victory in Baghdad, Iraq, thought Spc. Cherry Roldan-Gador, who spends most of her time supporting the Convoy Escort Teams of Battery Alpha, 1-487th Field Artillery at Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

Roldan-Gador tirelessly handles records and paperwork, ensuring medical records, promotion packets and NCOER's are complete and filed. Without her dedication and hard work one could say the mission readiness would be degraded for all. But just once she wanted to get away from it all and see the "road" as the CETs saw it so she requested to roll out with a CET and re-enlist under the marble pillars of the Victory Palace in Baghdad.

With the help of 1st Sgt. Reynaldo Hufana, her request was granted and in late January 2009 CET 4-6 - Monsta 808 - added Roldan-Gador and Cpt. Timothy Spencer to their manifest.

The mission to Baghdad ran smoothly with a little action along the way.

"It was scary and exciting," Roldan-Gador said about her experience on the road. "It gave me more confidence that a female Soldier can get out there and do all the things that the guys do."

To this date, Roldan-Gador is the first and only female from the 29th IBCT to travel on an escort mission across the Iraq-Kuwait border in support of OIF VIII.

"I really felt like royalty being in the palace...and sitting in that throne made me feel like a queen with a weapon in my hand," said Roldan-Gador, a 92A Supply Specialist from Kapolei, Hawaii.

At home she works as a full-time Military Pay Technician for the Hawaii Army National Guard. While this re-

enlistment will cover her Inactive-Ready Reserve status, Roldan-Gador was very emphatic when questioned about her future in the Guard.

"I'm done," she exclaimed when asked.

She then continued to express her dreams of starting a family and moving on with her civilian life.

To date, A/1-487th FA has re-enlisted more than 20 Soldiers, and the numbers will grow as this deployment winds down.

For many the decision is a tough one. Monetary and benefit packages, as well as camaraderie, brotherhood, and a chance to serve something bigger than them will always be swaying factors in every Soldier's mind.

To the Soldiers of A/1-487th FA, the teamwork and Ohana of this unit will always ring true in our hearts, whether we continue to serve in the guard or the civilian sector.

Master Driver trains Soldiers for success

Story by: **Capt. Timothy Zeisset**
100-442nd IN PA

Assigned to headquarters and headquarters Company, 100-442nd Infantry Battalion, Sgt. John Michael B. Peralta is a Senior Light Wheeled Vehicle Mechanic who also serves as the Battalion Master Driver Trainer.

Peralta recently completed Master Drivers training at the Mine Resistant Armor Protected University held in Red River Arsenal Depot, Texarkana, Tex.,

Feb. 4. Upon return from the course he designed and implemented an MRAP vehicle program of instruction to train and license other Soldiers within the battalion. His program included a combination of classroom instruction and hands-on training that put more than thirty operators into the same types of situations crews presently driving MRAPs into Iraq encounter on their convoy security escort missions.

Among the topics covered in his training were: vehicle characteristics, capabilities and limitations. He administered a heavy dose of training on Preventive Maintenance Check and Services, as well as Roll-Over and Emergency Egress Drills.

One of the training highlights involved use of the Driver Vision Enhancer which is used to penetrate smoke, dust, haze and darkness, in order to provide a 24-hour driving capability. Drivers were able to view thermal images of the roadway and terrain on a video monitor connected to an external optic sight. The sight is capable of traversing to both sides and elevating or depressing the line of sight to enhance situational awareness.

When asked what Peralta most enjoyed about his job he said, it was seeing Soldiers develop into highly skilled operators who are motivated and capable of effectively accomplishing every mission they are tasked with.

Peralta has excelled at his own mission and received numerous accolades from the Command and Staff, as well as visiting dignitaries, for his work ethic and performance to enhance the battalion's capabilities.

Sgt. John Michael designed and implemented an MRAP program of instruction for Soldiers requiring training.



1-299th Soldiers receives Top Gun Award

**Story and photo by: Sgt. Reed Kotake
1-299th CAV Contributor**



Spc. Marc Aquino receives a Top Gun award from Brig. Gen. James Rogers for his high score in M16 rifle qualification during the 1st TSC NCO/Soldier of the Year Competition at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, May 13-15.

Camp Arifjan, Kuwait: In today's Army, Soldiers have many opportunities to excel. Spc. Marc B. Aquino, Battery Alpha, 1-487th Field Artillery—currently attached to 1-299th Cavalry—seized one such opportunity recently by representing his unit and the 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team in the 1st Sustainment Command Soldier of the Year competition.

Aquino was selected from many qualified Soldiers across the 29th IBCT after review of his soldiering skills, Army Physical Fitness score, technical and tactical prowess and personal and professional bearing. Although he has only been in the Hawaii Army National Guard for a little more than three years, he is already an accomplished Soldier.

Aquino received the top ten commandants list for the Warrior Leadership Course which is the beginning of his Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development. He is also an accomplished small arms repairer and holds a State Technician job in his chosen military occupational specialty. In the future Aquino plans to attend Basic Non-Commissioned Officer Course and attain a Warrant Officer position in

Ordinance.

The competition took place at Camp Arifjan and spanned four days of intense testing of his knowledge and proficiency in common Soldier tasks as well as physical and mental testing.

Starting with an Army Physical Fitness Test at 0500 in the morning, Aquino excelled and passed with flying colors. He exceeded the army standard, as he is accustomed to doing, and pushed forward. The rest of the day was filled with weapons qualifications and hands on training on the M249 squad automatic weapon.

Soldiers not only had to display knowledge and skill in using their weapons, but also had to demonstrate proper care, maintenance, and failure-to-fire drills on the weapons at hand. After a grueling 13 hour day, the Soldiers were released to rest and recuperate for the next day of testing.

Day two was hands-on technical and tactical testing, that covered 25 common tasks all Soldiers are expected to know. From land navigation and first aid, to adjusting indirect fire and detainee operations, the competitors displayed their extensive

knowledge and the results were very close.

Testing culminated on day three with a written test and a board consisting of five Sergeant Majors. The competitors were questioned on many facts of army doctrine as well as current events and military history.

"I am just proud to be able to represent [the 1-487th FA] against so many active duty Soldiers," said Aquino.

The competition was fierce and fast paced but Aquino commented that he tried to keep it fun. He said that the main thing to him was just being there among the best of the best.

Competitors came from units stationed in Egypt as well as Kuwait and Afghanistan. Aquino stood tall amongst his peers knowing he was not only representing the 1-487th FA, 1-299th CAV and 29th IBCT, but also Hawaii. He completed his tasks proficiently and diligently but also with a smile and a kind word, making sure to spread the Aloha Spirit to his fellow Soldiers and NCO's.

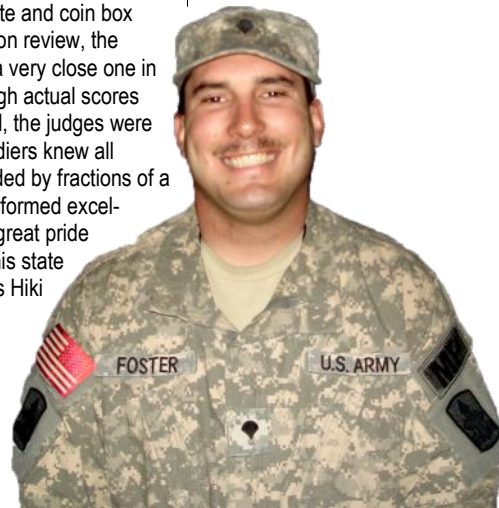
The award ceremony on the fourth day was well attended. Presiding over the ceremony was Brig. Gen. James E. Rogers, commander of the 1st Sustainment Command, and Col. Bruce E. Oliveira, commander of the 29th IBCT, who presented Aquino with a coin for professional excellence.

Once the points were tallied, Aquino was awarded the Top Gun award for superior marksmanship with an M16 Rifle. He was presented a Certificate and coin box from Rogers. Upon review, the competition was a very close one in all facets. Although actual scores were not released, the judges were adamant that Soldiers knew all places were decided by fractions of a point. Aquino performed excellently and brings great pride to his superiors, his state and most of all his Hiki No Family.

1-487th Soldier of the Month

Soldier of the month, April 2009, 2nd Squad, 4th Platoon, Battery Bravo, 1-487th Field Artillery, is Spc. Thomas Foster, for his outstanding performance during the month of March. By giving 110 percent, Foster enables the accomplishment of squad missions in a timely and efficient manner. He acts above his rank and pay grade by taking the initiative to adequately prepare for missions and by ensuring daily duties run smoothly and correctly. Once the mission is complete, Foster inputs data and conducts mission debriefs.

In addition, Foster has taught classes to squad members, as to expand their knowledge. Whenever there is a mission, assignment, or duty, he is the first to volunteer and the last to leave. Displaying selfless service, Foster volunteered to be a permanent party for the Kuwait National Guard in order to take his knowledge and experience received through the Army and help train Kuwaiti Soldiers. He has shown willingness to do what it takes to complete the mission and possess the mindset for greater responsibility. Our squad knows we can count on him when the going gets tough, for he will be there covering our six o'clock at all times. Foster truly has a heart to do what is right, even when no one is watching.



Spc. Thomas Foster, Military Police, 29th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, attached to 1-487th Field Artillery, was named Soldier of the month in his platoon, April 2009.

“Da Sandjam 2009”: continued from page 1



Female Soldiers from various units and the 29th Brigade Special Troops Battalion of Hawaii dance on stage at Camp Virginia, Kuwait, during one of the five concerts held at bases around Kuwait as part of “Da Sandjam” celebrating Asian Pacific heritage month, May 20.

This event has taken on a life of its own in many ways. Its name, roughly translated, means “Honoring the Military

Service” of the Asia Pacific Islanders who serve our Country. Through further sponsorship by OC-16, a Honolulu

based television station, there will be 2 two-hour television specials entitled “Aloha from Kuwait”, the first of which will air on July 4th later this year.

The show’s producer and two camera crews spent eleven days in Kuwait capturing the concerts as well

as footage of the Soldiers of the 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team deployed here from locations throughout the Hawaiian Islands, Saipan, Guam and American Samoa. The second show will feature more of the footage captured while the OC-16 film crew were in Kuwait, as well as the arrival of the 29th IBCT Soldiers as they arrive back in Hawaii sometime in mid-August this year.

“The way our military takes care of our troops is outstanding,” said Sini-

pao Roberts of B.E.T. “They try to make them feel at home.”

“This can be good and bad,” added an emotional Papa T, also of B.E.T. “This [concert] made the Soldiers feel homesick,” speaking about the opportunity to bring true island music to the Soldiers here in Kuwait.

Whether you speak to the Service members who experienced the concerts throughout Kuwait or the entertainers who experienced the life of the Hawaii Soldiers here in Kuwait, there’s no question that the experience has been remarkable for all. Many of the entertainers expressed just how much this trip has changed their understanding of what the Soldiers are doing in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, as well as the daily sacrifices that these Soldiers make to defend the freedoms of their ohanas back in Hawaii and across the Pacific.



29th Infantry Brigade Soldiers performing a traditional Samoan song and dance at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, May 20.



Dancers of Tahiti performing for Soldiers at Camp Patriot, Kuwait, May 20. Photos by: Staff Sgt. Crystal Carpenito, 29th IBCT PA

Eugene Aguon, Regal Carveiro, Andrew Castellano, Florens Castillo, Christopher Esteron, Kimo Farias, Kevin Harris, Justin Kaihenui, Marc Oroc, Joshua Owings,

WRANGLER RUMBLE 2009 COMBATIVES COMPETITION

Alan Pelletier, William Sasil, Matthew Turner, An Huynh, Christopher Babil, William Mura, Hale Furtado-Phlo, Ryan Biliader, Garren Mousser, Christian Moratin, Juanito Rigos, Cassidy Shonber,

Paul Angeleo, Bryant Cabral, Wayne Kemison, Keokolo Paakonia, Anthony Aquino, Joshua Bumanlag, Jaesen Pummell, Previs Tsui, Kory Tucker, Sebastian Feary,

Justin Nishimura, Christopher Wong, Jeremiah Morris, Captain Dekoning, Barry Asherry, Bernie Bumanlag, Grant Hamilton, Deliah Joung, Howard Lopes, Jeffrey Madriga, Brandon Maki, Reid Moser



Armed Forces Day

**Story by: 1st Lt. Erica Royce
R-Det Commander,
1-299th Cavalry**

Members of the 1st SQN, 299 CAV (RSTA) participated in Armed Forces Day on 16 May 2009. Hundreds of Big Island residents turned out for the event that was hosted by the 207th Aviation located near the Civil Air Patrol, Hilo International airport.

Members of the U.S. Coast Guard, Hawaii Army and Air National Guard, U.S. Navy, Hawaii Civil Air Patrol and Army Reserve each put on powerful and moving displays of military hardware, thus emphasizing the nation's deep gratitude to those who, in times of war and peace, have faithfully defended the



country.

The airport-sponsored event was dedicated to Jim Davis, former airport manager and assistant district superintendent who died in January 2009.

From left to right, Spcs. Bacdad, Agonlas, and Brown. Photo by: Sgt. Pasqual Gallen, S1, 1-299th CAV

Big Island Table Tennis Tournament

**Story by: 1st Lt. Erica Royce
R-Det Commander,
1-299th Cavalry**



Left to right – Sgt. 1st Class Earl Ventura; third place winner (unknown name), Clyde Young, President of the Club and first place overall winner of the Elite Division; and 1st Lt. Lisa Royce. Photo by: Sgt. Pasqual Gallen.

The 1-299th Cavalry hosted and sponsored the Big Island Table Tennis Association's second annual tournament at the KMR Armory in Hilo, Hawaii on May 16, 2009.

Players of all ages and experience competed for awards and cash prizes. Also contributing to the six hour event were dedicated members of the Hilo Family Readiness Group (FRG) whose profits from selling snacks and drinks went toward activities geared for local Families and their deployed loved ones overseas.

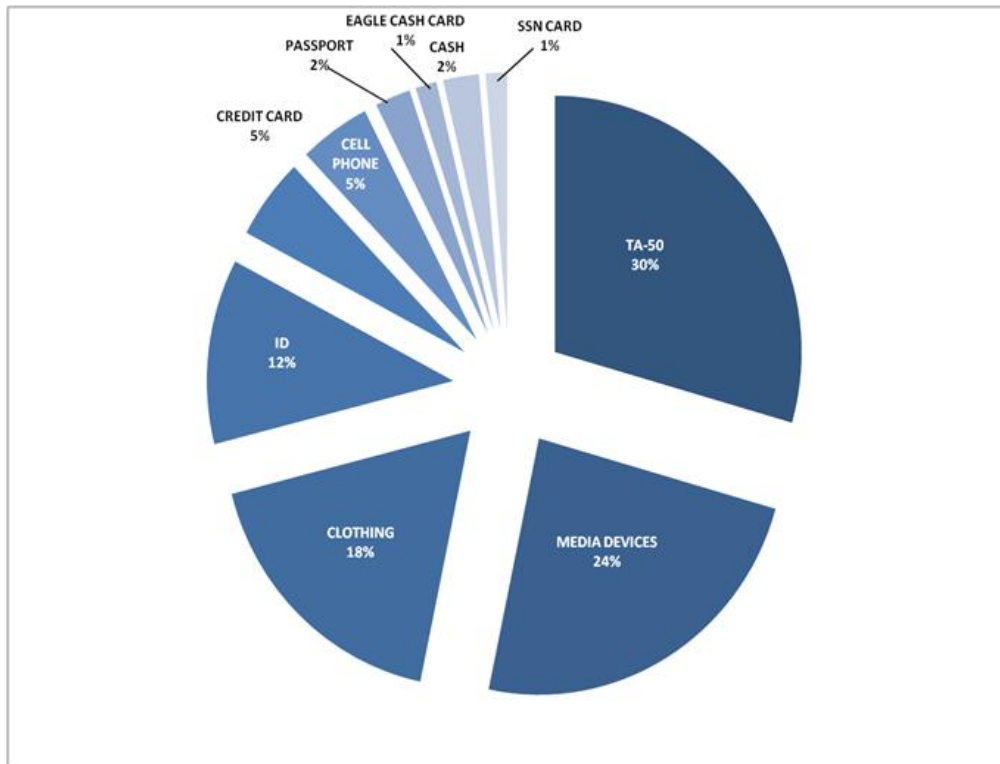
First, second and third place medals were handed out by the 1-299th CAV Recruiter, Sgt. 1st Class Earl Ventura. Awardees were congratulated by Clyde Young, President of the Hilo Table Tennis Club, and 1st Lt. Lisa Royce, CAV Rear Detachment Commander.

Where's my luggage?

Did you know approximately 60,000 people transit through the Life Support Area, Kuwait, on a monthly basis; each of them normally carrying at least 2 bags at a time? That's an average of 120,000 bags being brought onto the LSA every month!

Did you know from November 2008, the LSA Command Cell has tracked more than 150 bags claimed either lost or stolen? Yes, that's right! These bags have been claimed either lost or stolen by Servicemembers and contractors coming through the LSA.

A majority of the items claimed lost or stolen are military issued; such as common ACU pattern backpacks and duffel bags. It's easy to misplace or accidentally grab a bag that is not yours if it hasn't been uniquely identified. Another factor is that most of these incidents happen during the dark hours when there is limited lighting.



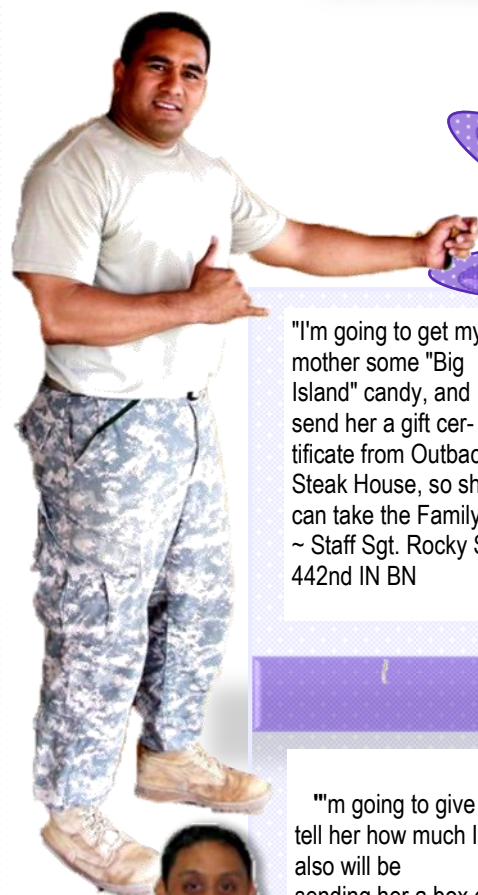
Here are some helpful tips when traveling:

- **Use TSA approved locks** in case a physical inspection is required.
- **If possible, try using just a Carry-On bag.** This will ensure continuous visibility of your bag.
- **Use BRIGHT identification markings.** Homemade tags using bright/neon colored materials can help you easily identify your bag. Reflective tape works well too.
- **Use a bag that is not the latest fad.** This helps separate your bag from other identical bags.
- **Keep your valuables with you in your Carry-On Bag.** This helps keep your personal items with you and your electronics safe from baggage handling damage.

Courtesy of: Sgt. Raena Madelra, HHC, BSB Contributor

Good to know

What did you do for your Mom on Mother's Day



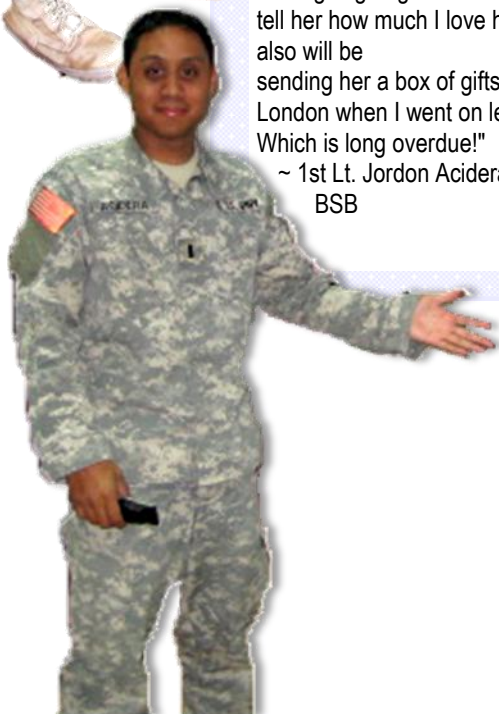
"I'm going to get my mother some "Big Island" candy, and send her a gift certificate from Outback Steak House, so she can take the Family there."
~ Staff Sgt. Rocky Siufanua, 100-442nd IN BN



"I'm having my Family take my wife and mother-in-law out for a nice dinner, and sending money to my mother in the Philippines." ~ Spc. Daniel Ramos, HHC, 29th BSTB



"I'm going to give her a call and tell her how much I love her and also will be sending her a box of gifts from London when I went on leave! Which is long overdue!"
~ 1st Lt. Jordon Acidera, 29th BSB



"I got her some souvenirs during my expedition through Europe on R&R."
~ Sgt. Nathaniel Kamano, HHC, 29th IBCT.



29th IBCT



We'd like to hear from you!

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Contributors
Unit Public Affairs
Representatives



Staff Sgt. Carpenito and Maj. Ellison

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WWW.ARMYFRG.ORG

PAO Comment

As we continue toward our mission completion and the return home to our Families and friends, we must remain diligent in maintaining our focus and professionalism. With the end of the deployment within sight, it's easy to begin to forget how important and significant our mission here is and how our performance of that mission will forever play a role in defining us as an organization. There seems to be a trend that we need to look at, a trend that has the potential to define us as an organization as well; we're having Soldiers contact the media directly to complain.

Please understand I fully support that everyone has the right to freedom of speech, however, please note that using the media as a means to air problems isn't the way to appropriately solve such problems; there are channels to more appropriately address issues. When a story runs as a result of an "anonymous source" there is a potential to make our organization look bad and certainly has the potential to discount the hard work and successes that have happened throughout the deployment to date. The potential to create distain and controversy within the organization is possible as well. It's important to remember that there are other more appropriate channels in which to bring attention to problem areas that need to be addressed by the organization.

We are a professional organization and our Soldiers should be proud of the way that our Brigade has performed during this deployment; it will be added to an already rich history of successes. Our Soldiers have always performed well and represented Hawaii well when called to duty. Don't let this deployment be any different. Our organization has been very successful and performed as professionals throughout this deployment and that is what our Families, friends and the history books should reflect; remember that the Soldier's creed says, "I am a professional".

Use the tools that are out there for raising complaints - the chain-of-command and Inspector General's office - they are there for that purpose. The problems can't be addressed to be fixed if the appropriate people do not have visibility of the problem areas. Have confidence that the "systems" in place can work - with most all of these "systems", there are outside entities there to sort through the situation. Give these systems the opportunity to work. Don't let controversy begin to overshadow the outstanding performance of the Soldiers of this Brigade at this point in the deployment. Keep your focus and professionalism and raise problems into the appropriate channels, these systems are in place just for that.

We're almost to the end of our mission - let's maintain our focus and professionalism and ensure that the history books of tomorrow are reflective of the outstanding work that is being done by each and every one of you today.

Lava!